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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Biological Survey

KILLING RATS WITH CALCIUM CYANIDE.

When rats have access to unlimited quantities of food, as found in garbage heaps and on the average farm, controlling them by poisoning or trapping is often difficult. Where rats burrow under poultry houses and other farm buildings having fairly tight floors, calcium cyanide dust pumped into the burrows with a portable dusting pump has been found very effective. The cyanide is forced through a hose, entering the rat harbor's in the form of a smoke-like dust. When the dust comes in contact with moisture in the air, it liberates hydrocyanic-acid gas, in a concentration of which no animal can live long. It must be remembered that the fumigation method will not be successful under all conditions, but only where the concentration and spread of the gas can be controlled.

There are two general types of dusting pumps on the market which are capable of forcing cyanide dust into rat burrows. The bellows type, carried on the back, is the larger, being adapted for use around large poultry plants, city dumps, and sanitary fills. The pump should be used at least once each week in badly infested places, and thereafter as often as necessary to keep the rats under control.

A smaller dusting pump similar to a bicycle pump, has recently been devised for rat control work. This more nearly meets requirements of the average farmer or poultryman. The machine rests on the ground, and the dust is forced out through a flexible hose. This type permits more economical use of material than the larger duster.

On account of the migratory habits of rats, it will pay farmers and poultrymen to keep a pump and a supply of the chemical on hand. The cost of calcium cyanide is low compared with its effectiveness. Its use should not be relied upon alone, but only as a supplement to the methods recommended for poisoning and trapping. See Farmers' Bulletin No. 1302, entitled, "How to Get Rid of Rats". Cleaning up premises and rat-proof construction or repair of buildings will go a long way toward keeping rats from being troublesome.

C A U T I O N .

Calcium cyanide and the gas arising from it are deadly poisons. It should be kept closed air-tight in the original container and be transferred to the duster only in the open air when ready to use. Read and follow precautions printed on the label of the container. Keep the container out of reach of children, irresponsible persons, and livestock and use only where people, livestock, or poultry will not be endangered.

COOPERATIVE RODENT CONTROL CAMPAIGNS.

Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State College of Washington cooperating.

KILLING RATS WITH CALCIUM CYANIDE.

When rats have access to unlimited quantities of food, as found in garbage heaps and on the average farm, controlling them by poisoning or trapping often fails. In such situations the Biological Survey has developed a new method which should be successful. Where rats burrow under poultry houses and other farm buildings having fairly tight floors, calcium cyanide dust pumped into the burrows with a portable dusting machine has been found very effective. The cyanide is forced through a hose, entering the rat harbors in the form of a smoke-like spray. When the dust comes in contact with moisture in the air, it liberates hydrocyanic-acid gas, in a concentration of which no animal can live long. It must be remembered that the fumigation method will not be successful under all conditions, but only where the concentration and spread of the gas can be controlled.

There are two approved types of dusters capable of forcing cyanide into rat burrows. The bellows type, carried on the back, is the largest, being adapted for use around large poultry plants, city dumps, and sanitary fills. The machine should be operated at least once each week in badly infested places, and thereafter as often as necessary to keep the rats under control.

A smaller duster, similar to a bicycle pump, has recently been devised for rat control work, and this more nearly meets the requirements of the average poultryman. The machine rests on the ground, and the dust is forced out through a flexible hose. This type permits more economical use of material than the large duster.

On account of the migratory habits of rats, it will pay the poultryman to keep a duster and a supply of the chemical on hand. The cost of calcium cyanide is low compared with its effectiveness. Its use should not be relied upon alone, but only as a supplement to the methods recommended for poisoning and trapping. Cleaning up the premises and rat-proofing the buildings will go a long way toward keeping rats from becoming troublesome.

C A U T I O N

Calcium cyanide is a deadly poison. It should be kept air-tight in the original container and only transferred to the duster in the open air. Read the precautions printed on the label. Keep the container out of reach of children, irresponsible persons, and livestock.

